

OFFICE OF AIDS
HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Branch
Epidemiologic Studies Section

Research Scientist II (Environmental Epidemiology)
Position Number 809-175-5570-901

Under the general direction and supervision of the Chief, Epidemiologic Studies Section, the Research Scientist II (RS II) plans and conducts HIV-related behavioral surveillance activities and other epidemiologic studies to determine factors associated with risk of HIV transmission. Reflecting the wide scope and significance of the Section's role in developing program- and policy-relevant information throughout the State, this effort has national significance and is critical to the public health. The RS II is a lead on HIV-related behavioral surveillance (which is a subset of all HIV/AIDS epidemiologic research in the Section) and consults with local, state, and national public health, university, and research personnel to advance knowledge of behavioral risk factors for HIV and related diseases such as hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and sexually transmitted diseases. This position requires a high degree of independent research design skill and the application of novel research methodology and techniques. The incumbent acts as a resource to management and staff for complex, advanced research and statistical methods.

- 50% In consultation with other Office of AIDS (OA) and DHS staff, plans, designs, organizes, and interprets HIV-related behavioral surveillance studies. Using a wide variety of data sources, the RS II develops research strategies to assess the current status of risk factors for HIV/AIDS epidemic and to project future trends. Works closely with Section and other scientific staff within the Office of AIDS, from local health jurisdictions, universities, and other organizations to produce refined estimates of people at risk for HIV and related diseases. Conducts geographic, demographic and risk assessment research and evaluations. Uses scientific expertise to improve estimation techniques and avoid biases (such as response bias and selection bias). Executes complex and difficult statistical analyses using SAS computer program and other statistical software, including logistic regression analyses and similar multivariate techniques. Evaluates current literature on HIV epidemiology and surveillance to assess design adequacy, sources of bias, appropriateness of interpretations and applicability of conclusions. Writes scientific publications on the results of research, and presents research results to appropriate individuals and groups at meetings and conferences.
- 25% Creates RFAs, then oversees and coordinates extramural (i.e., involving non-DHS researchers) HIV-related behavioral surveillance activities established through awarded external grants of OA funds. Assures that extramural research is conducted effectively through site visits and contract monitoring, in order that State funds are used appropriately. In collaboration with extramural researchers, defines predictive profiles of high risk and HIV infected persons and tests for significant trends.

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| 10% | Provides expert consultation on research design, procedures and analyses as needed to complete tasks. Acts in a lead capacity from time to time for specific project work groups. Designs and conducts projects to advance knowledge of the AIDS epidemic, including the study of HIV trends, incidence and prevalence. Consults with experts in HIV epidemiology and surveillance to identify current issues and methods. |
| 10% | Ensures the provision of data, analysis and projections to support Section programmatic recommendations. Provides technical consultation to research and administrative entities within the Office of AIDS, the Department, and other state agencies on their HIV/AIDS epidemiology and surveillance programs. Provides technical advice to local programs on research projects. |
| 05% | Other duties as required. |

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